for design and development of infrastructure, construction, erection, commissioning, operation and maintenance of the plant.

(d) The tariff of electricity from this plant will be competitive as compared to the tariff from contemporary thermal power stations in the region. the estimated tariff in the first year of operation is about 310 paise/KWh.

(e) and (f) There is no effect on the fishing activity due to the Kudankulam project. this is also the experience at the other coastal nuclear power plant in the country viz. Madras Atomic Power Station, Tamil Nadu. The local fishermen from the surrounding villages of Kudankulam were taken on a conducted tour for meeting with the local fishermen near Madras Atomic Power Station, which is under operation for the last 20 years. It is understood that the fishermen from Kudankulam area, after discussions with the fishermen near Madras Atomic Power Station were convinced that fishing activity is not affected by the project.

Radiation Norms for Protection of Technicians

2590. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' :Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) Whether radiation norms are being followed in Government hospitals for protecting technicians;

(b) whether any study in some of the Central Government hospitals was conducted by the Atomic Energy Regulation board; and

(c) if so, the result is thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The study covered Central and State Governement Hospitals. Among the radiation sources used in hospitals in India, Medical X-ray equipments is the most important. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has collected safety-related data nation-wide from over 30,000 medical X-ray installations. As a follow-up, obvious deficiencies have been brought to the notice of the owners of the installations with necessary direction to remedy them. AERB has analysed radiation doses to several thousand technicians and other radiation workers in medical x-ray installations over the past several decades. The average radiation dose has decreased significantly. The analysis by AERB indicated that technicians working in medical x-ray installations in the country are among the category of workers exposed to relatively low radiation doses. This is parimarily because there is adquate built in safety in x-ray tubes.